

## Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 FEA-02 DRC-01 EUR-25 NEA-10

EA-11 /113 W

----- 082339

P 011342Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4012

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 IAEA VIENNA 1832

AEC ALSO PASS COMMISSIONER DOUB

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: AORG, OCON, IAEA, TECH, ENRG

SUBJECT: IAEA AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR POWER

PLANT SAFETY AND RELIABILITY

SUMMARY: IAEA WILL CONVENE GROUP OF HIGH-LEVEL EXPERTS APRIL 1-5, 1974, TO SERVE AS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT SAFETY AND RELIABILITY. MAJOR PROGRAM THIS FIELD EXPECTED TO FOLLOW, WHICH WILL BE PART OF LARGER OVERALL STEPPED-UP EFFORT RELATED TO INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER. AGENCY REQUESTS U.S. NOMINATE SENIOR OFFICIAL TO SERVE ON COMMITTEE. MISSION BELIEVES SUCCESS OF PROGRAM WILL DEPEND ON FULL COOPERATION AND SUPPORT FROM USAEC, AND RECOMMENDS PROMPT AND FAVORABLE RESPONSE. ACTION REQUESTED: NOMINATION OF U.S. EXPERT. END SUMMARY.

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM DG EKLUND TO AMB TAPE PROVIDING BACKGROUND FOR ESTABLISHMENT SUBJECT COMMITTEE TO BE COMPOSED OF VERY SENIOR PERSONALITIES FROM FEW MEMBER STATES ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS, AND ANNOUNCING FIRST MEETING OF COMMITTEE TO TAKE PLACE AT AGENCY'S HEADQUARTERS ON APRIL 1-5, 1974. PLANS FOR THIS GROUP AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES FOR AGENCY WERE DISCUSSED AT UNCLASSIFIED

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LENGTH WITH AEC COMMISSIONER DOUB DURING HIS RECENT VISIT IN

VIENNA. ITS CONCEPT RESULTS LARGELY FROM U.S. INITIATIVE OF LAST MAY (SEE STATE 85156), WHICH URGED THAT AGENCY TAKE STEPS TO INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS OF ITS ACTIVITIES RELATED TO REACTOR SITING, SAFETY AND REGULATORY CONTROL MATTERS, PLUS GROWING REALIZATION WITHIN SECRETARIAT OF NEED TO BETTER PREPARE ITSELF TO DEAL WITH ACCELERATING GROWTH OF NUCLEAR POWER IN COMING YEARS, ALL OF WHICH WAS BROUGHT TO HEAD RECENTLY BY INTERNAL SECRETARIAT DISPUTE THAT BROKE OUT OVER HEALTH AND SAFETY PROVISIONS IN IAEA/MEXICO NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT AGREEMENT (SEE STATE 10077).

2. LETTER NOTES THAT AGENCY HAS BEEN ACTIVE FOR MANY YEARS IN ASSISTING MEMBER STATES IN SAFE SITING, DESIGN AND OPERATION OF NUCLEAR REACTORS THROUGH ADVISORY MISSIONS, PUBLICATION OF CODES OF PRACTICE, GUIDEBOOKS AND TECHNICAL REPORTS, AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION. DURING INITIAL PERIOD OF NUCLEAR POWER THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE TO ESTABLISH INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SAFETY CRITERIA, EXCEPT IN FEW GENERAL FIELDS. HENCE, NUCLEAR PLANT SAFETY AND RELIABILITY MATTERS OFTEN RECEIVED AN AD HOC APPROACH, WITH CONSEQUENT LACK OF HOMOGENEITY OR COMPARABILITY IN CRITERIA USED AND LEVELS OF SAFETY REQUIRED OR ATTAINED.

3. RAPID GROWTH OF NUCLEAR POWER POSES PROBLEM IN TERMS WHICH NECESSITATE URGENT REAPPRAISAL OF NEEDS OF MEMBER STATES AND CORRESPONDING PROGRAM OF AGENCY. IT IS CLEAR THAT AD HOC APPROACH TO SAFETY IS NOT RPT NOT ADEQUATE IN CONTEXT OF LARGE WORLDWIDE NUCLEAR POWER INDUSTRY AND ASSOCIATED INTERNATIONAL TRADE. AS IN OTHER FIELDS, THEREFORE, ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SAFETY STANDARDS AND APPROPRIATE GUIDES THAT MAY BE USED BY REGULATORY BODIES, UTILITIES, DESIGNERS, AND CONTRACTORS IS DESIRABLE. (ALTHOUGH NOT STATED IN LETTER BELIEVE FINANCING INSTITUTIONS WILL HAVE STRONG INTEREST.)

4. WITH ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN NUCLEAR POWER PROJECTS, AGENCY WILL NOT BE FACED WITH RAPID INCREASE IN NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN NUCLEAR SAFETY MATTERS AND ALSO IN NUMBER OF NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT AGREEMENTS TO BE REVIEWED FROM SAFETY POINT OF VIEW. AD HOC APPROACH WILL BECOME ENTIRELY INADEQUATE WITH REGARD TO EXPERT-TIME REQUIRED AND TO HOMOGENEITY WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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IS DESIRABLE BOTH IN PREPARATION AND EVALUATION OF SAFETY REPORTS.

5. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, SUGGESTION HAS BEEN MADE THAT AGENCY DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE SET OF BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANT SAFETY AND ASSOCIATED RELIABILITY REQUIREMENTS WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE INTERNATIONALLY AND WHICH COULD SERVE AS STANDARD FRAME OF REFERENCE FOR NUCLEAR PLANT SAFETY

AND RELIABILITY ANALYSES. THESE REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY MORE DETAILED GUIDES WHEREVER POSSIBLE FOR PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION.

6. AS FIRST STEP TOWARD PLANNING FOR SUCH AN EXPANDED PROGRAM AND EVALUATION ITS MERITS, SUBJECT COMMITTEE WILL BE CONVENED TO CONSIDER OBJECTIVES AND TIMING OF PROPOSED PROGRAM AND PREPARE COST ESTIMATES FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION. IT IS IMPORTANT TO START WORK ASAP IN ORDER TO COMPLETE IT IN RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME AND MAKE RESULTS AVAILABLE WHEN THEY ARE MOST NEEDED.

7). USG REQUESTED NOMINATE SENIOR OFFICIAL TO SERVE ON COMMITTEE AT NO EXPENSE TO AGENCY. DOCUMENT CONTAINING TENTATIVE PROPOSALS FOR EXPANDED PROGRAM, MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTATION, AND EXPERTISE REQUIRED IS EXPECTED TO FOLLOW SHORTLY. SIMILAR LETTERS SENT TO FRG, FRANCE, INDIA, JAPAN, UK AND USSR.

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NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 FEA-02 DRC-01 EUR-25 NEA-10

EA-11 /113 W

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P 011342Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4013

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 IAEA VIENNA 1832

AEC ALSO PASS COMMISSIONER DOUB

8. COMMENT. MSSION BELIEVES THIS PROMISES TO BE ONE OF MOST SIGNIFICANT AND FAR-REACHING ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY IAEA SINCE WORK OF SAFEGUARDS COMMITTEE FEW YEARS AGO. TO BE SUCCESSFUL, IT WILL REQUIRE FULL COOPERATION AND SUPPORT FROM USG, PRIMARILY AEC REGULATORY PROGRAM. BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH AGENCY STAFF DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH CARRYING OUT

THIS WORK, IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY WISH TO HAVE, IF POSSIBLE, TOP-LEVEL OFFICIAL DESIGNATED AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE FOR THREE MAIN REASONS: (A) TO ENSURE PARTICIPATION BY PERSONS THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH WIDE RANGE OF REGULATORY ACTIVITIES AND PROBLEMS IN INVITED COUNTRIES; (B) TO ENSURE PROPER SELECTION OF STAFF-LEVEL EXPERTS FROM WITHIN REGULATORY COMPLEX IF COUNTRIES INVOLVED TO PARTICIPATE IN SERIES OF WORKING GROUP MEETINGS THAT WILL BE REQUIRED SUBSEQUENTLY TO DEVELOP CODES OF PRACTICE, GUIDEBOOKS, ETC.; AND (C) TO MONITOR INPUTS OF SUCH EXPERTS TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY THROUGHOUT ENTIRE EXERCISE. WE UNDERSTAND AGENCY IS PLANNING TO PREPARE 7 CODES OF PRACTICE, 14 GUIDEBOOKS AND 10 USERS MANUALS UNDER INITIAL PHASE THIS PROGRAM, WHICH IS LIKELY TO TAKE ABOUT TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE. IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO PREPARE OTHER SUCH GUIDES LATER ON, BUT THIS CAN BE DECIDED IN LIGHT OF SITUATION PREVAILING AT THAT TIME. IT IS LIKELY THAT THERE WILL ALSO BE A CONTINUAL UP-DATING PROCESS REQUIRED. AGENCY STAFF HAS EXPRESSED HOPE,

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THEREFORE, THAT EXPERT NOMINATED FOR THIS COMMITTEE WILL HAVE NECESSARY AUTHORITY WITHIN HIS OWN ORGANIZATION TO ASSURE THAT REQUIRED PEOPLE ARE MADE AVAILABLE AND ASSIGNED TASKS ARE CARRIED OUT EFFECTIVELY. TOP-LEVEL EXPERT COMMITTEE WOULD PROBABLY MEET AGAIN NEXT YEAR TO REVIEW WORK COMPLETED AT THAT TIME, AND PERHAPS AGAIN IN FOLLOWING YEARS AS ADDITIONAL PHASES OF PROGRAM TERMINATE. ACCORDINGLY, MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THESE VIEWS BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DESIGNATING U.S. EXPERT TO ATTEND.

9. MISSION ALSO WISHES TO NOTE THAT THIS PROGRAM IS ONLY PART OF MUCH LARGER STEPPED-UP EFFORT WHICH AGENCY EXPECTS TO UNDERTAKE IN CONNECTION WITH INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, SUCH AS INCREASING IN-HOUSE STAFF CAPABILITIES FOR PROVIDING ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE IN REACTOR SITING AND REACTOR SAFETY ACTIVITIES, EXPANDING BROAD RANGE OF TRAINING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO NUCLEAR POWER, ETC., WHICH WILL INVOLVE AGENCY'S DIVISION OF NUCLEAR POWER AND REACTORS AS WELL AS DIVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. THIS CONNECTION, DG HAS ALSO DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE TO SET UP SPECIAL TASK FORCE IN NEAR FUTURE, USING OUTSIDE EXPERTS AS WELL AS IN-HOUSE STAFF, WHICH WILL BE ASKED TO PREPARE COMPREHENSIVE AGENCY PROGRAM RE INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER AND COST ESTIMATES FOR CARRYING IT OUT. MISSION WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DETAILS THIS EFFORT SHORTLY. END COMMENT.

10. SINCE THIS PROGRAM WILL INVOLVE WORK OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, MISSION BELIEVES USE OF COST-FREE EXPERT FUNDS TO SEND U.S. EXPERT TO THIS COMMITTEE MEETING FULLY JUSTIFIED. COPY OF DG'S LETTER POUCHED AMMONS, AEC. MISSION RECOMMENDS PROMPT AND FAVORABLE RESPONSE. ADVISE SOONEST.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NUCLEAR ENERGY, CONSTRUCTION, AGREEMENTS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, NUCLEAR SAFETY, NUCLEAR REACTORS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** IAEA VIENNA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740376/aaaacsae.tel  
**Line Count:** 223  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION SCI  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 JUN 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <13 JUN 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IAEA AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT SAFETY AND RELIABILITY  
**TAGS:** AORG, OCON, TECH, ENRG, US, IAEA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005